

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5      1. A method of preventing a respiratory infection by administering an effective amount of an agent for down-regulating ICAM-1 expression.

10      2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said administration step further includes administering the agent to airway epithelial cells.

15      3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said administration step further includes administering the agent intranasally.

20      4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said administration further includes administering the agent by inhalation.

25      5. The method according to claim 2, wherein said administration step further includes administering the agent orally.

30      6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said administration step includes injecting the agent.

35      7. A composition for the prevention of respiratory infection comprising an agent which regulates ICAM expression.

40      8. The composition according to claim 6, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting essentially of antibodies to ICAM-1, antibodies to RSV epitopes, antisense oligonucleotides for ICAM-1, and agents which regulate ICAM-1 expression.

45      9. A method of preventing RSV infection by administering an effective amount of an agent that interferes with the binding of RSV to ICAM-1.

50      10. A method of preventing RSV infection by administering an effective amount of an agent that down regulates the expression of ICAM-1, thereby decreasing RSV binding to ICAM-1.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said administration step further includes administering the agent to airway epithelial cells.

5 12. A method of treating RSV infection by administering an effective amount of an agent for down regulating ICAM-1 expression.

13. A method of blocking RSV-ICAM-1 interaction by administering an effective amount of agents for blocking ICAM sites of binding.

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14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said administering step further includes the step of blocking the RSV-F binding site.

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15. A compound for blocking RSV-ICAM-1 interaction comprising an agent for blocking ICAM sites of binding.

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16. The compound of claim 14, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting essentially of antibodies to ICAM-1, antibodies to RSV epitopes, antisense oligonucleotides for ICAM-1, and agents which block ICAM sites of binding.

17. The compound according to claim 14, wherein said compound blocks the RSV-F binding site on ICAM-1.

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18. The compound according to claim 16, wherein said compound blocks ICAM via the ICAM-1 anti-sense oligonucleotides.